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TRENDS IN COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA
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TRENDS

in Communist Propaganda

S U P P L E M E N T

NORTH VIETNAM

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GIAP ADDRESSES ALL-ARMY CONFERENCE ON MILITARY SCIENCE TASKS

Hanoi propaganda on an army conference held in September reveals new emphasis on the need for the DRV to develop its "military science" to cope with problems in the North and with the military situation in South Vietnam and other fronts in Indochina. The initial Hanoi radio report on 28 October announced that an all-army conference had been held "recently" by the Standing Committee of the Central Military Party Committee to disseminate a resolution on military science work. The broadcast noted that an "important report" was delivered by Defense Minister Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap, secretary of the Central Military Party Committee, and that an unnamed "representative of the military science organ of the Ministry of National Defense" discussed the implementation of a resolution on military science work in the entire armed forces.

NHAN DAN and QUAN DOI NHAN DAN on 30 and 31 October publish the text of Giap's report in installments, noting that the conference was held in September, and portions of the report were broadcast in Hanoi radio's domestic service on 31 October and 1 November. However, Hanoi media have not released the text of the resolution or indicated when it was adopted, nor have they published the report of the representative of the military science organ.

MILITARY SCIENCE & COMBAT PROBLEMS In his introduction Giap suggests that current military problems motivated the convening of the conference, "despite the fact that all of us are busy with many tasks." Pointing out that the study of military science is "aimed at directly supporting combat and the maintenance of combat readiness," he lists three problems requiring attention: The struggle in the South has raised "striking and complicated problems, which must be solved promptly in order to frustrate the enemy's new schemes and tricks and to advance toward winning final victory"; the task of protecting the North has also raised problems which must be studied to help determine the course of efforts to build the armed forces and consolidate defense "in coordination with economic construction"; and the expansion of the war throughout Indochina requires "increasingly close combat coordination" among the armed forces and people of Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos, and this "new situation also has raised new problems"

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Stressing need to deal promptly with these problems, Giap adds that "it should not be assumed that we can put off the study of military science until after the anti-U.S. struggle is over." He points out that "the study of military science is aimed at expeditiously recapitulating the experiences acquired and at finding out the laws governing leadership of the war in order to avoid moving in a circular path and to vigorously advance toward victory instead of compiling volumes of documentary data." In a list of guidelines for the study of military science, Giap warns, among other things, against focusing on only one aspect of a situation, not taking into account the historical context, or being conservative and using "outmoded formulas."

RESOLUTION, Giap refers in the introduction to the Central
NEW ORGANS Military Party Committee's resolution on
 military science tasks and points out short-
comings in the accomplishment of these tasks. He notes that
the committee also issued a resolution on military science tasks
for the years ahead. Giap explains that because of past
shortcomings, the committee has called for an intensification
of the "recapitulation and study tasks" and has decided to
establish "military science organs" (cow quan khoa hocj quaan
suwj) and a "Military Science Council" (Hooij dgoongf khoa
hocj quaan suwj).*

Giap devotes most of his five-part report to theoretical questions of military science and does not, for example, explain the role of the Military Science Council. However, the functions of the "military science organs" and the aims of the Central Military Party Committee's resolution are outlined in general terms in the concluding section. Giap states that all levels of the armed forces must contribute to the development of military science and that the resolution is meant to "strengthen the leadership of the party committees and unit commanders at all levels over the military science task." The military science organs, he says, will "help the Central Military Party Committee recapitulate experiences and study

* The term "cow quan," as used here, can be translated either "organ" or "organs"; but "cow quan" is usually used in a generic sense, not to refer to a single organization. That Giap means a number of "organs" are to be set up is indicated by the fact that in the text as published in NHAN DAN, "cow quan" is not capitalized whereas the Vietnamese term for "Military Science Council" is.

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general problems." They will also help the committee in "leading the military science task in the entire army and organizing a distribution of labor, coordination, and an exchange of experiences among the various branches and echelons."

LE DUAN'S Giap refers to remarks by First Secretary Le
VIEWS Duan at a meeting with "high-ranking officers"
 in which Duan discussed the role of military
science. Giap adds that Le Duan "has often reminded us of the
necessity of building a Vietnamese military science." Giap
does not indicate when the meeting with Le Duan took place,
but it may have been a gathering reported by Hanoi media in
early August this year. A 6 August VNA report revealed that
"recently" First Secretary Le Duan "called on and talked to
high-ranking officers of the Vietnam People's Army" at a
meeting attended by members of the Standing Committee of the
Central Military Party Committee. In briefly reporting
Duan's remarks at that meeting, VNA said he "encouraged the
officers to sum up their experiences from the practical as
well as the critical points of view, so as to build a
Vietnamese military science" It is possible that plans
for the September conference and the Central Military Party
Committee resolutions were presented or drafted at that time.

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